

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 12, delete the entire paragraph of the **Abstract** section and substitute the following paragraph therefor:

A method and apparatus for increasing the allowable transmission rate of Digital Subscriber Lines (DSL(s) DSLs) in a binder group. The DSL(s) DSLs in the binder group are monitored to determine their actual transmission rate. The allowable transmission rate of individual DSL(s) DSLs is adjusted in order to make sure that it does not exceed some target level, but that in case many lines are inactive or in a keep-alive mode, that the transmission rate of the active lines can be substantially higher than the transmission rate based on all lines being active and transmitting at their maximum rate. ~~Advantageously~~ Advantageously, the actual throughput for the binder group can be increased substantially above that allowed for a static assignment of transmission rates.